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ROLE AND ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION REGARDING THE COORDINATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

DRAFT REPORT

Rapporteur Ms. Marina RANGA (Romania)

Chapter ...

Chairman's summary of the discussion

1. The Commission considered the note prepared by the secretariat at the request of the Commission at its second session (E/CN.16/1997/2). It was noted that, with the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations, which had brought the Commission to Geneva and had also made UNCTAD the secretariat of the Commission, the mandate for the coordination of the activities of United Nations agencies in the area of science and technology was vested in the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. Furthermore, the functions of the former Inter-Agency Committee on Science and Technology for Development had been assumed by the

existing coordinating bodies under the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC). The Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD) were the two bodies which dealt with issues related to inter-agency coordination in the field of science and technology for development. In this regard, a close working relationship had been established between the secretariats of CSTD and CSD.

2. It was pointed out that requesting United Nations organizations to contribute to the preparation of reports fell short of the requirements of active collaboration and coordination. In pursuing its coordinating responsibilities, the Commission should involve United Nations organizations in the conceptualization and planning of its intersessional work and the implementation of its recommendations, to the extent that financial resources were available for that purpose.

3. It was also suggested that the use of information technology such as video-conferencing could provide a possible channel for facilitating close communication and cooperation among the organizations of the United Nations system.